



**MINUTES
DEVILS LAKE WATER IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING**

**DLWID OFFICE
October 1, 2009
6:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Jack Strayer
Brian Green
David Skirvin
Randy Weldon

ABSENT: Paul Robertson (excused absence)

AUDIENCE: Don Sell, Larry Brown, Jim Covert, Doug Pirie, Raylene Erickson,
Miles Schlesinger, Randy Dorsing

STAFF: Seth Lenaerts, RARE Participant

Green brought the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and asked that Strayer conduct the meeting since he was recovering from a surgical procedure.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Green moved and Weldon seconded approval of September minutes. Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.

Financial Report

Green moved that the financial report be approved and bills be paid. Weldon seconded. Vote: unanimous. Motion carried.

Board Member Resignation

Strayer reported that Winchester had resigned last month and standard procedure would indicate the position be opened for applications. Discussion ensued on the most efficient and equitable method for handling the appointment. Green suggested placing the request in the newspaper and setting the application deadline before the next meeting. Green said the Board would await Robertson's return at which time he could advertise the position.

Election of new Secretary/Treasurer

Strayer reported that the Board needs to elect a secretary-treasurer to replace Winchester. Green nominated Weldon and Skirvin seconded the motion. Vote: unanimous. Motion carried.

Introduction of Seth Lenaerts (RARE Participant)

Strayer introduced Lenaerts to the audience and the Board. He will work for one year under the auspices of the U of O. He is a second year intern, having completed one year in Vernonia in city planning. Land Use Planning and Natural Resources is his background and he is happy to be with the DLWID.

Public Comments

Larry Brown brought up the Board's policy regarding the communications committee issues. He does not want to see one individual making public comment that are in conflict with the Board's philosophy. He says signs posted at the boat ramps are upsetting people. He said we should use vernacular that people understand. The average person would identify with blue-green algae rather than the scientific terms that do not inform the public as well as if they hear terms that they understand. A red alert is a misnomer because the red alert is only for one spot on the lake, not the entire lake. It is a disservice to the public to inform that there is a danger if there is not. The messages have not been correct in the past. He would like to see the Board set guidelines.

Strayer said that issue will come up in the communications committee and they are working on that issue. The World Health standards have indicated that a 50-pound child would have to drink a gallon of water to be impacted.

Raylene Erickson said that the experts she checked with post for at risk people—children, pets and seniors. In Oregon, danger is listed as 8 parts per billion. That is the recreational guidelines.

Green said that when he read the Minutes from last meeting, a discussion occurred about communicating what the signs reflect to a lake user.

Unfinished Business

Boat Docks

No update on this issue. Matt Spangler (formerly Lincoln County's Planner) will be moving to a State of Oregon Department (Dept of Land Conservation and Development).

Land-Use Complaints

2551 EDLR: no new information.

11th & EDLR: A complaint was lodged about the motor homes at 11th & NE East Devils Lake road that have been dumping something into the lake. Strayer said that complaints to various entities did not seem to be effective. Robertson took some tests, but the tests were inconclusive. The pipe is a four-inch pipe, so there is some concern that it is sewage. Since the Board has no enforcement authority, the only recourse is to call County Health. Pirie said it is the same individual who was supposed to comply with State Lands complaints from last year. Green said he would be willing to do a little investigating on the issue.

Seid Creek: no comments.

Lake Level

The dam will be pulled out on the week of October 15. Lake level has been maintained. Larry Brown said he feels that this summer the lake level has been a good compromise for most lake residents. Weldon said he says that although there is still a great deal of erosion, it is better this year than last.

Devils Lake Plan

DEQ 319 Grant

The Board elected to postpone this discussion until Robertson returns next meeting.

Native Vegetation

Regarding the TetraTech agreement, Strayer asked if anyone had any questions. There has been a lot of information on how to eliminate invasive species. There is very little on what should be growing in lakes. This contract will aid the District in getting a handle on what plants should be there. Underwater and native plants will be identified to help screen phosphorous. TetraTech will be giving input on how to obtain these plants and they will be in the final report.

Green signed the contract agreement.

Whole Lake Circulation

No update

Financial Oversight Committee Report

The new secretary-treasurer and the committee will meet with the auditor. Green gave Weldon the name and phone number of the auditor so that he could facilitate this.

Communications Committee Report

Strayer said there have been a number of communication issues, including concerns about the signage. Also the best method of getting new and emerging issues to people who live within the district and outside. A quarterly newsletter would be the most effective method; a semi-annual newsletter seems too infrequent. They also discussed some other issues that people feel strongly about.

Safety Report

Seth Lenaerts reported that he has been updated on safety issues.

Water Quality Update

Lenaerts reported that they completed the testing in September for water quality. This year is better than past years. They will begin testing again in June. There will be informational sheets available all winter.

Weldon reported that Bi-Mart has been slow to respond on the no-phosphate fertilizer issue. He approached Ace Hardware, who said they will provide this fertilizer and install signage about the importance to the lake of using no-phosphate fertilizer. Weldon said that phosphate should be reserved for new grass. Some areas of the country have banned phosphate fertilizer altogether.

Raylene Erickson will place this information on the PADL website.

Nutrient Budget RFP

Robertson said he released the RFP and has had one enquiry. There is a November 4 deadline so the Board can evaluate the responses. This is an effort to try to get a handle on where nutrients are coming from that are going into the lake and what they comprise. It will provide information for prioritizing issues in the attempt to mitigate issues that are impacting the lake negatively—logging practices, construction, fertilizer, septic tanks.

New Business

The Devils Lake Plan

Septic Tank Revitalization Program

Lenaerts reported he will be concentrating on two components during his year at the District. Some ideas are under consideration. He is setting up a mapping and data base for a better understanding of what is going on in the watershed. He is hopeful that they can come up with a monitoring program that will aid residents in knowing how best to manage their septic tanks. If those residents with failing tanks are offered a free loan program, it might be an enticement for replacement. Failing septic tanks are a large contributor to the nutrients and this project is very important. Strayer reminded that a home with a family of eight and a washer and dryer going constantly would impact much more than a vacation home where people rarely occupied. It might be good to take a look at the number of owners on Devils Lake who are not full-time residents. Seth said septic tanks contribute about 10% of nutrients in the lakes where they are located.

Pirie asked about the proposed method for how people can “manage” their septic tanks.

Weldon said if the tank is functioning properly, just to keep an eye on it and make sure it is operating properly.

Weldon reminded that Lenaerts is here to help educate people and work on helping residents replace inoperable tanks. Lenaerts said he feels that the District should have some role in everything that is happening on the lake.

Jim Covert asked what authority the District has to instruct residents to manage septic tanks. He said the information he has obtained is inconclusive—debatable on methods and times.

Raylene Erickson suggested checking with Bill Zekan, who seems to be an authority on septic tank management.

Weldon said he feels strongly that that offering some financial incentive will generate results for testing failing tanks.

Green asked if there is a component to identify the tanks and how bad they are. Lenaerts said They will work on it.

Save our Shoreline Campaign

Lenaerts reported that this is the second phase of his focus during his year at the District. He will be creating a public outreach campaign on what native plants to look at that are the best practices for the health of the lake. These practices will have a more positive impact on the lake. Anything that is protecting shoreline from erosion.

Pirie asked if they would be working on erosion issues. Pirie asked where information for Lenaerts’ project is coming from. He asked about near-shore erosion from wind and wakes of the boats in the summer. Lenaerts gave Pirie his business card and Pirie said he would give it to his contact person at Oregon State who would be able to get Lenaerts some information.

Strayer said that logs are great for beneficial grasses and growing plankton.

Pirie said in 1995 he taught a class in coastal engineering about how waves impact beaches and erosion. He said they went through formulas and studied various models that were available. Then a couple of logs were tossed in that destroyed everything. However, the situation is different on the coast.

25 years of lake management on devils Lake, a silver lined anniversary. A presentation to the Oregon Lakes Association

Lenaerts showed Paul's presentation from the Oregon Lakes Association meeting three weeks ago. It was broken into three sections. Early history, recent history and the future. Watershed and how it formed; Native people—Salish. Languages that are localized; Newcomers and tourism; 1893 Lincoln County formed; The Early 1900's; The Fifties; The Heyday; 1960's; Weeds, Chinese grass carp; 1968 association was formed; 1970's, Studies began; 1980's, Development began; Lake Fixes and alternatives; 1986, 10,000 grass carp were installed in the lake; 1987, 17,050 more grass carp were installed. 1990's, 1993, 5,000 more carp; Total eradication of weeds; Paleolimnological Data; Plants dissipated and the nutrients increased; Devils Lake plan Projects were listed; E.coli monitoring and signage and reporting; Cyano-Watch, visual monitoring, etc., Cyanotoxin analysis information and website information listed; What Lies ahead?

319 grant—data grading and database

Nutrient budget

Native Vegetation

319 grant-water quality problems

Nutrient budget-RFP available

Seth Lenaerts-RARE participant

Current and recent projects

Everyone agreed this was a great presentation.

Non-Agenda Items

Public Comments

Announcements

North American Lake Management Society - October 27-31, 2009.

Adjournment

Adjournment at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Burt